

## BOOK NOTICE

*The Insect World of J. Henri Fabre.* With Introduction and Interpretive Comments by Edwin Way Teale. Dodd, Mead and Company, New York, 1949.  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{3}{4}$  inches, xvi + 333 p. \$3.50.

After a lapse of many years Dodd, Mead and Company have added another volume to the series of Fabre's works which they published from 1912 to 1923. In the present, well-printed and attractively bound volume, Edwin Way Teale, the well-known naturalist, author and photographer, has brought together forty of the best known of Fabre's studies and has prefaced them with a concise and appreciative summary of Fabre's life and observations. Mr. Teale has followed Alexander Teixeira de Mattos' original translation into English and Fabre's accounts will always retain their original charm and interest. Although students of animal behavior now operate on a different level, frequently with complex laboratory apparatus, they are all indebted to the facts harvested by Fabre and embedded in his "Souvenirs Entomologiques", after years of patient observation.

The works of Fabre need not be recommended to entomologists. His basic observations are familiar to all of us, and it is likely that all entomologists, at one time or other, have taken inspiration from them. His experiments are classics of simplicity. As an observer he was a genius. If we do not agree with his interpretation of all his experiments, they are nevertheless always interesting and worthy of study. Though many of his experiments were conducted in the late years of his long life, they were pursued with the vigor and application of a crusader. For he was one, who wanted his insects studied and understood, so that they might be loved. His views on natural history education, which caused him considerable embarrassment, have only recently become established in our schools. Perhaps he could be called the father of the "field trip" and the "summer camp."

This book provides a generous and a very well chosen sample of the prodigious work of a man who did much to establish the entomological profession, and whose timeless accounts and lucid prose will always be read and enjoyed by people who recognize insects as living creatures of infinite interest.—F.A.S.